

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to their representative during the personal interview on November 15, 2007.

As discussed at the personal interview, the present invention relates to a cyclic amide transition metal complex having the ability to activate bleaching even at low temperatures and without color migration in fibers. Specification at Title; page 1, lines 2-8. The cyclic amide transition metal complex has the formula (1) shown in Claim 1.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over EP 0,306,089 A2 ("Stephenson") in view of *J. Radioanal. Nucl. Chem.*, 2001, Vol. 248, No. 2, 431-437 ("Moody") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,876,625 ("Collins").

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner cite Stephenson on a Form PTO-892.

Stephenson discloses a metallo-porphyrin that is usable as a bleach catalyst and includes a macrocyclic transition metal complex substituted at four meso-positions with a pyridinium ion "Ar". Attached to the N atom of the pyridinium ion Ar is a $-(B)^+_n-(A)_m$ group, where A may be sulphate, sulphonate, phosphate or carboxylate groups. Stephenson at page 3.

However, Stephenson fails to suggest the independent Claim 1 limitation that A "represents a group having 1 to 3 quaternary ammonium groups substituted with a linear or branched alkyl group or linked with a linear or branched alkylene group, a cyclic quaternary ammonium group or a heterocyclic aromatic quaternary cation group which may be substituted with a linear or branched alkyl group".

The Office Action applies Moody for disclosing at Fig. 1 a pyridinium ion in which attached to the N atom is a quaternary ammonium group.

Collins discloses a bleaching composition comprising an oxidatively stable bleach activator in the form of a macrocyclic complex. Collins at Abstract. Joined to the macrocyclic complex can be a doubly connected benzene ring. See, e.g., Collins at Fig. 3. Collins discloses that changing substituents attached to the macrocyclic complex from ethyl to methyl unexpectedly transforms a short-lived complex into a stable long-lived complex that is very resistant to oxidative degradation. Collins at column 6, lines 29-36.

The Office Action proposes to replace Stephenson's macrocyclic transition metal complex and three Ar's with the macrocyclic complex of Collins, and then to attach to the macrocyclic complex of Collins one of Moody's pyridinium ions having attached to the N atom a quaternary ammonium group.

However, in the structure proposed by the Office Action, Moody's pyridinium ion would be **singly bonded** to the macrocyclic complex of Collins.

The cited prior art fails to suggest the independent Claim 1 limitation of a structure having one of Moody's pyridinium ions **doubly bonded** to a macrocyclic complex. Based at least on the disclosure of Collins, discussed above, regarding the sensitivity of the macrocyclic complex to small changes in substituents, Claim 1's doubly bonded structure would be expected to have quite different characteristics than the singly bonded structure that the Office Action constructs from the cited prior art.

Because the cited prior art fails to suggest all the limitations of independent Claim 1, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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